WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A status notification apparatus for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus, included in the one information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information to/from other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

    an inquiry device for making an inquiry about whether the other information processing apparatuses have the function of transmitting/receiving the information; and

    a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry by the inquiry device that the other information processing apparatuses have the function.

2.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

    the notification device stops the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry device that the other information processing apparatuses have no the configuration after starting the notification.

3.   A status notification apparatus for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus, included in the one information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information to/from other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

    a confirmation device for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the other information processing apparatuses and the one information processing apparatus; and

    a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.

4.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the notification device stops the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is not established with the other information processing apparatuses after starting the notification.

5.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the notification device switches a display device in off state to a turned-on state when starting the notification.

6.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the notification device switches a display device in off state to a turned-on state when starting the notification.

7.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the other information processing apparatuses and the one information processing apparatus are connected to each other by a serial bus governed by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 Standard.

8.   A status notification apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the other information processing apparatuses and the one information processing apparatus are connected to each other by a serial bus governed by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 Standard.

9.   A status notification method for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information to/from other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

an inquiry process for making an inquiry about whether the other information processing apparatuses have the function of transmitting/receiving the information; and

a notification process for starting the notification upon

confirmation by the inquiry that the other information processing apparatuses have the function.

10. A status notification method for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus transmitting/receiving information to/from other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

a confirmation process for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the other information processing apparatuses and the one information processing apparatus; and

a notification process for starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.

11. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer included in a status notification apparatus for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus, included in the one information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information to/from other information processing apparatuses for notifying the status of the one information processing apparatus, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

an inquiry device for making an inquiry about whether the other information processing apparatuses have the function of transmitting/receiving the information; and

a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the inquiry by the inquiry device that the other information processing apparatuses have the function.

12. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and

representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer included in a status notification apparatus for notifying the status of one information processing apparatus, included in the one information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information to/from

5   other information processing apparatuses, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

a confirmation device for confirming whether the connection of a transmission path of the information is established between the other information processing apparatuses and the one information processing

10   apparatus; and

a notification device for starting the notification upon confirmation by the confirmation device that the connection is established.